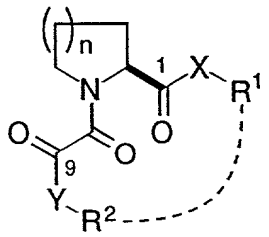
What is claimed is:

1. A multimerizing agent of the formula

$$M^1\text{-}L\text{-}M^2$$

I

nd pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, including their individual stereoisomers and mixtures of stereoisomers, where M^1 and M^2 are independently moieties of formula II:



(II)

where n = 1 or 2;

X = O, NH or CH_2;

Y = O, NH, NR^3, or represents a direct, i.e. covalent, bond from R^2 to atom 9;

R^1, R^2, and R^3 are independently C_1-C_{20} aliphatic, heteroaliphatic, aryl or heteroaryl;

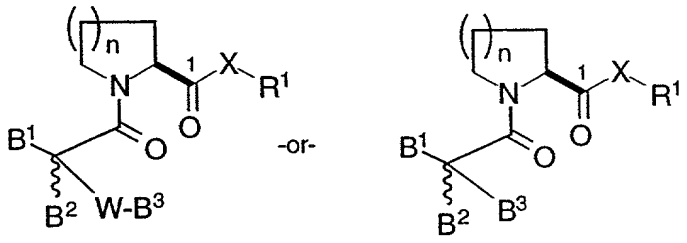
wherein aliphatic and heteroaliphatic moieties include both saturated and unsaturated straight chain, branched, cyclic, or polycyclic aliphatic hydrocarbons which may contain oxygen, sulfur, or nitrogen in place of one or more carbon atoms, and which are optionally substituted with one or more functional groups selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, acyloxy, carbamoyl, amino, N-acylamino, ketone, halogen, cyano, carboxyl, and aryl;

aryl and heteroaryl moieties include stable cyclic, heterocyclic, polycyclic, and polyheterocyclic unsaturated C_3-C_{14} moieties, exemplified but not limited to phenyl, biphenyl, naphthyl, pyridyl, furyl, thiophenyl, imidazoyl, pyrimidinyl, and oxazoyl; which may further be substituted with one to five members selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, C_1-C_8 branched or straight-chain alkyl, acyloxy, carbamoyl, amino, N-acylamino, nitro, halogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, and carboxyl;

R^1 and R^2 may optionally be joined, i.e., covalently linked, together, forming a macrocyclic structure (as indicated by the dashed line in II); and

L is a linker moiety covalently linking monomers M^1 and M^2 through covalent bonds to either R^1 or R^2, not necessarily the same in each of M^1 and M^2.

2. A compound of the formula M^B-L-$M^{B'}$ in which each monomer, M^B (or $M^{B'}$), whether as a single isomeric form or mixture of stereoisomers, is of the formula



in which X, R^1 and n are as defined in claim 1; B^1, B^2 and B^3 are independently H, C1 - C10 aliphatic, heteroaliphatic, aryl or heteroaryl; and W is O, S, NH, -NHC(=O)-, or -NHC(=O)-O-; and B^1, B^2 and B^3 moieties other than H may contain a substituent permitting covalent attachment to a linker.